

FORM PTO-1190 (Modified)  
(REV 11-2000)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

ATTORNEYS DOCKET NUMBER

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER TO THE UNITED STATES  
DESIGNATED/ELECTED OFFICE (DO/EO/US)  
CONCERNING A FILING UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

214274US

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR

10/009190

INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO.

PCT/FR00/01553

INTERNATIONAL FILING DATE

07 June 2000

PRIORITY DATE CLAIMED

08 June 1999

## TITLE OF INVENTION

**PROCESS AND SYSTEM TO ACCESS A MULTIMEDIA VOICE SERVER THROUGH AN INTERNET TYPE  
COMPUTER COMMUNICATION NETWORK**

APPLICANT(S) FOR DO/EO/US

Henry TEBEKA

Applicant herewith submits to the United States Designated/Elected Office (DO/EO/US) the following items and other information:

1. ☒ This is a **FIRST** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
2. ☐ This is a **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** submission of items concerning a filing under 35 U.S.C. 371.
3. ☒ This is an express request to begin national examination procedures (35 U.S.C. 371(f)). The submission must include items (5), (6), (9) and (24) indicated below.
4. ☒ The US has been elected by the expiration of 19 months from the priority date (Article 31).
5. ☒ A copy of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371 (c) (2))
  - a. ☐ is attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☒ has been communicated by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ is not required, as the application was filed in the United States Receiving Office (RO/US).
6. ☒ An English language translation of the International Application as filed (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(2)).
  - a. ☒ is attached hereto.
  - b. ☒ has been previously submitted under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
7. ☒ Amendments to the claims of the International Application under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(3))
  - a. ☐ are attached hereto (required only if not communicated by the International Bureau).
  - b. ☐ have been communicated by the International Bureau.
  - c. ☐ have not been made; however, the time limit for making such amendments has NOT expired.
  - d. ☒ have not been made and will not be made.
8. ☐ An English language translation of the amendments to the claims under PCT Article 19 (35 U.S.C. 371(c)(3)).
9. ☐ An oath or declaration of the inventor(s) (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(4)).
10. ☐ An English language translation of the annexes to the International Preliminary Examination Report under PCT Article 36 (35 U.S.C. 371 (c)(5)).
11. ☐ A copy of the International Preliminary Examination Report (PCT/IPEA/409).
12. ☒ A copy of the International Search Report (PCT/ISA/210).

**Items 13 to 20 below concern document(s) or information included:**

13. ☐ An Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR 1.97 and 1.98.
14. ☐ An assignment document for recording. A separate cover sheet in compliance with 37 CFR 3.28 and 3.31 is included.
15. ☒ A **FIRST** preliminary amendment.
16. ☐ A **SECOND** or **SUBSEQUENT** preliminary amendment.
17. ☐ A substitute specification.
18. ☐ A change of power of attorney and/or address letter.
19. ☐ A computer-readable form of the sequence listing in accordance with PCT Rule 13ter.2 and 35 U.S.C. 1.821 - 1.825.
20. ☐ A second copy of the published international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
21. ☐ A second copy of the English language translation of the international application under 35 U.S.C. 154(d)(4).
22. ☐ Certificate of Mailing by Express Mail
23. ☒ Other items or information:

Drawing (1 sheet)

PCT/IB/304, PCT/IB/308

Request for Consideration of Documents Cited in the International Search Report

U.S. APPLICATION NO. (IF KNOWN, SEE 37 CFR <div style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold;">10/009190</div>	INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION NO. <div style="font-weight: bold;">PCT/FR00/01553</div>	ATTORNEY'S DOCKET NUMBER <div style="font-weight: bold;">214274US</div>
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24. The following fees are submitted:

**BASIC NATIONAL FEE (37 CFR 1.492 (a) (1) - (5)) :**

☐ Neither international preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) nor international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO and International Search Report not prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... **\$1040.00**

☒ International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but International Search Report prepared by the EPO or JPO ..... **\$890.00**

☐ International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) not paid to USPTO but international search fee (37 CFR 1.445(a)(2)) paid to USPTO ..... **\$740.00**

☐ International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO but all claims did not satisfy provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... **\$710.00**

☐ International preliminary examination fee (37 CFR 1.482) paid to USPTO and all claims satisfied provisions of PCT Article 33(1)-(4) ..... **\$100.00**

**ENTER APPROPRIATE BASIC FEE AMOUNT =**

Surcharge of **\$130.00** for furnishing the oath or declaration later than ☐ 20 ☒ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (e)). **\$130.00**

CLAIMS	NUMBER FILED	NUMBER EXTRA	RATE	
Total claims	11 - 20 =	0	x \$18.00	<b>\$0.00</b>
Independent claims	2 - 3 =	0	x \$84.00	<b>\$0.00</b>
Multiple Dependent Claims (check if applicable).				<input type="checkbox"/> <b>\$0.00</b>
<b>TOTAL OF ABOVE CALCULATIONS =</b>				<b>\$1,020.00</b>

☐ Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27. The fees indicated above are reduced by 1/2. **\$0.00**

**SUBTOTAL = \$1,020.00**

Processing fee of **\$130.00** for furnishing the English translation later than ☐ 20 ☐ 30 months from the earliest claimed priority date (37 CFR 1.492 (f)). **\$0.00**

**TOTAL NATIONAL FEE = \$1,020.00**

Fee for recording the enclosed assignment (37 CFR 1.21(h)). The assignment must be accompanied by an appropriate cover sheet (37 CFR 3.28, 3.31) (check if applicable). ☐ **\$0.00**

**TOTAL FEES ENCLOSED = \$1,020.00**

Amount to be refunded	\$
charged	\$

CALCULATIONS PTO USE ONLY

a. ☒ A check in the amount of \$1,020.00 to cover the above fees is enclosed.

b. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. \_\_\_\_\_ in the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ to cover the above fees. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.


c. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 15-0030. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

d. ☐ Fees are to be charged to a credit card. **WARNING:** Information on this form may become public. Credit card information should not be included on this form. Provide credit card information and authorization on PTO-2038.

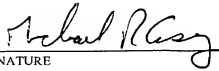
**NOTE:** Where an appropriate time limit under 37 CFR 1.494 or 1.495 has not been met, a petition to revive (37 CFR 1.137(a) or (b)) must be filed and granted to restore the application to pending status.

**SEND ALL CORRESPONDENCE TO:**

Telephone #: (703) 413-3000  
 Facsimile #: (703) 413-2220

22850

  
 SIGNATURE  
 Gregory J. Maier  
 NAME  
 25,599  
 REGISTRATION NUMBER  
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 DATE  
 Michael R. Gasey, Ph.D.  
 Registration No. 40,294

Page 2 of 2

10/009190  
JC10 Rec'd PCT/PTO 10 DEC 2001

Attorney Docket No. 214274US67 PCT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Henry TEBEKA

SERIAL NO. New U.S. PCT Application  
based on PCT/FR00/01553

FILED: Herewith

FOR: PROCESS AND SYSTEM TO ACCESS A MULTIMEDIA  
VOICE SERVER THROUGH AN INTERNET TYPE  
COMPUTER COMMUNICATION NETWORKPRELIMINARY AMENDMENTASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATIONPlease amend the title of the application as follows:<sup>1</sup>--METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ACCESSING, VIA A COMPUTERISED  
COMMUNICATION NETWORK SUCH AS INTERNET, A MULTIMEDIA VOICE  
SERVER--IN THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-15 without prejudice and substitute therefor new Claims 16-27 as follows.

16. (New) A method of utilizing at least one multimedia voice server through a computer communication network, the method comprising:

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<sup>1</sup>The changes to the title are shown using underlining and bracketing in the attachment hereto.

establishing a connection between a local interface device associated with a telephone handset and the at least one multimedia voice server through a service server in the computer communication network, such that data sent by the at least one multimedia voice server representing at least one of sounds and images passes through the computer communication network, and are received by the local interface device and transmitted to the user,

transmitting, to the user, a menu of options through the connection between the service server and the local interface device; and

selecting at least one new option from the transmitted menu.

17. (New) The method according to claim 16, further comprising:  
displaying image data from at least one multimedia voice server using a display screen on the local interface device.

18. (New) The method according to claim 16, further comprising:  
personalizing menus in the service server menu using a configuration server.

19. (New) The method according to claim 16, further comprising:  
programming the local interface device to automatically connect to the at least one multimedia voice server at a given time depending on a pre-determined structure, through the service server, and

caching data received from the at least one multimedia voice server in a memory area of the local interface device for later retrieval.

20. (New) The method according to claim 16, wherein the step of establishing the connection comprises establishing the connection in response to an activation of a control device on the local interface device.

21. (New) The method according to claim 20, wherein the control device comprises a key on a key pad.

22. (New) A system for utilizing at least one multimedia voice server through a computer communication network,

a link between (1) a local interface device, associated with a telephone handset, and (2) the at least one multimedia voice server, through a service server on the computer communication network, for transmitting data, from the at least one multimedia voice server, representing at least one of sounds and images, through the computer communication network to the interface device and a user,

means for transmitting, to the user, a menu of options through the connection between the service server and the local interface device; and

means for selecting at least one new option from the transmitted menu.

23. (New) The system according to claim 22, further comprising:

a display screen to display image data from the at least one multimedia voice server.

24. (New) The system according to claim 22, further comprising:

a configuration server for personalizing structures in a service server menu.

25. (New) The system according to claim 22, further comprising:

means for programming the local interface device to automatically connect to the at least one multimedia voice server, through the service server, at a given time depending on a pre-determined structure, and

means for caching data received from the at least one multimedia voice server in a memory area of the local interface device for later retrieval.

26. (New) The system according to claim 22, wherein the link is established in response to an activation of a control device on the local interface device.

27. (New) The system according to claim 26, wherein the control device comprises a key on a key pad.

#### REMARKS

Favorable consideration of this application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 16-27 are currently pending in this application and are in

condition for examination on the merits. An early and favorable action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



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**22850**

(703) 413-3000

Fax No. (703) 413-2220

**Marked-Up Copy**

Serial No: New Application  
Preliminary Amendment Filed on:

12-16-2001

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the title of the application as follows:

--[PROCESS] METHOD AND SYSTEM [TO] FOR [ACCESS] ACCESSING, VIA  
A [MULTIMEDIA VOICE SERVER THROUGH AN INTERNET TYPE COMPUTER]  
COMPUTERISED COMMUNICATION NETWORK SUCH AS INTERNET, A  
MULTIMEDIA VOICE SERVER--

IN THE CLAIMS:

1-15. Canceled

16-27. New

(12) DEMANDE INTERNATIONALE PUBLIÉE EN VERTU DU TRAITÉ DE COOPÉRATION  
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Intellectuelle  
Bureau international**



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**14 décembre 2000 (14.12.2000)**

PCT

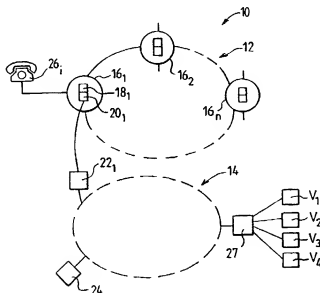
(10) Numéro de publication internationale  
**WO 00/76192 A1**

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|---|---|
| (51) Classification internationale des brevets:<br>H04M 3/493, 3/487  | (72) Inventeur; et<br>(75) Inventeur/Déposant (pour US seulement): TEBEKA, Henry [FR/FR]; 18, avenue du 8 mai 1945, F-95200 Sarcelles (FR).   |
| (21) Numéro de la demande internationale:<br>PCT/FR00/01553   |   |
| (22) Date de dépôt international: 7 juin 2000 (07.06.2000)  | (74) Mandataire: GRYNWALD, Albert; Cabinet Grynwald, 12, rue du Helder, F-75009 Paris (FR).   |
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| (71) Déposant (pour tous les États désignés sauf US): APLIO, SOCIÉTÉ ANONYME [FR/FR]; 18, avenue du 8 mai 1945, F-95200 Sarcelles (FR). |   |

[Suite sur la page suivante]

(54) Title: METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ACCESSING, VIA A COMPUTERISED COMMUNICATION NETWORK SUCH AS INTERNET, A MULTIMEDIA VOICE SERVER

(54) Titre: PROCEDE ET SYSTEME POUR ACCEDER, VIA UN RESEAU DE COMMUNICATION INFORMATIQUE DU TYPE INTERNET, A UN SERVEUR VOCAL MULTIMEDIA



- (57) Abstract: The invention concerns a method enabling at least one user to access, via a computerised communication network (14), in particular of the Internet-type, at least a multimedia voice server, each user being provided, for example, with a local interface device (30). It consists in setting up a link between the interface device and the related multimedia voice servers ( $V_1, V_2, V_3, V_4$ ), via an operating Internet server (27); activating the interface device so as to connect the interface (30) to the operating server (27); broadcasting, via the established link, a menu proposing to the user the options of affiliated multimedia voice servers; and setting up a link with the selected voice servers.

[Suite sur la page suivante]



1/PNTS

PROCESS AND SYSTEM TO ACCESS A MULTIMEDIA VOICE SERVER  
THROUGH AN INTERNET TYPE COMPUTER COMMUNICATION NETWORK

The invention relates to a device for accessing multimedia voice servers through a computer network, particularly an Internet type network. It also relates to a process and a system enabling at least one user to  
5 access a voice server through a computer communication network.

The cost of communications made using an Internet type network is particularly low. Unlike conventional telephone communications, the price is independent of  
10 the distance and is also usually independent of the communication duration.

Thus, the use of an Internet network is attractive for long distance telephone communications and also for specialized communications with high rates per unit  
15 time. This is particularly applicable for voice servers communicating special-purpose information.

An interface or switching device associated with a telephone handset that can be used to connect the user of the telephone network to the Internet network, is  
20 proposed in international patent application No. WO98/13986, so that a subscriber to a telephone network

can communicate with other subscribers through the Internet network without needing to use expensive equipment such as a computer. With this device, the user can telephone another user equipped with the same type of device passing through the Internet network instead of using a telephone line. To achieve this, the subscriber dials the called party's telephone number on his telephone handset in order to reach him through the telephone network, and then notifies his interface device that he would like a communication through the Internet network. The interface devices of the calling party and the called party thus pass through the telephone network and exchange information necessary to automatically or semi-automatically get into contact afterwards on the Internet network.

The invention is intended to facilitate access to multimedia voice servers through Internet type networks, particularly making use of the interface device of the type described in the international patent application mentioned above.

Thus, the invention relates to a process for accessing at least one multimedia voice server through a computer communication network, particularly an Internet network, characterised in that each user is provided either with a local interface device associated with a telephone handset, or with a telephone connected through a local loop in the telephone network, particularly a switched network, to an interface device located in a remote telephone exchange managed by a telecommunications operator with which the user has taken out a subscription, and

in that a connection is set up between the interface device and the multimedia voice server(s)

concerned through a service server in the computer communication network,

such that data sent by multimedia voice servers representing sounds and/or images pass through the Internet network, and are received by the interface device and transmitted to the user,

the interface device is activated in order to set up a link between this device and the service server, by using:

- 10       - either a control device associated with the local interface, particularly a key on this device such as a key on a keypad,
- or a control device associated with the telephone connected to a remote interface device, this
- 15       control device for example being a key on the telephone keypad,

a menu is transmitted through the link thus set up between the service server and the interface device and/or the telephone, presenting options for the related multimedia voice servers to the user,

such that the user may receive messages such as the following, for example:

"Welcome to the service server, through which you can access:

- 25       - the multimedia voice server for new disks: press 1,
- the multimedia voice server for today's news: press 2,
- the multimedia voice server for the weather:
- 30       press 3,
- etc.",

options in the transmitted menu are selected using the control device, and

links are set up with the selected multimedia voice server(s),

such that, for example, the user can press key 3 on the keypad of his telephone or his interface device,  
5 to receive information about the weather.

If an interface device provided is located in a remote telephone exchange, it is useful if a user does not need an interface device, but all that he has to do is to take out a subscription to the telephone service  
10 through Internet and that the cost to the operator can be moderate since the interface devices can be shared between several subscribers.

Note that in the above and in the following, the expression "voice server" or "multimedia voice server"  
15 must be understood as being a source capable of generating sounds and/or images (in the broad sense of the term, in other words also comprising symbols, and particularly graphic symbols and text).

It will be appreciated that the process according  
20 to the invention, as a result of the service server and the control device associated with the local interface device or the telephone, can be used to easily select voice servers. For example, the user will receive the menu in the form of a message informing him of the key  
25 number that he should press (on the interface device or the telephone) to access the available voice servers.

In one embodiment, the interface device comprises a display screen and image data originating from multimedia voice servers are displayed.

30 As an alternative, these image data originating from voice servers are displayed on the telephone screen.

Thus, it is quite possible to take full advantage of the telecommunications network since it is possible to access voice data and image data at the same time.

In one embodiment, structures can be personalized  
5 on the service server, for example by means of a configuration server.

In other words, for example it is possible to use a configuration server to preselect multimedia voice servers to be presented in a menu, and possibly to  
10 determine the order in which these preselected services will be presented.

As an illustration of this embodiment, the user can choose between the following (in the order given)  
1: weather news; 2: horoscope; 3: today's news (for  
15 example French national news) and disk news, such as new disks released by Madonna.

According to one embodiment, the interface device can be programmed such that it is automatically connected at a predetermined moment and preferably  
20 according to the preselected structure, to the voice servers concerned through the service server. In this case, it is preferable to store data received from voice servers in a memory in the interface device.

For example, the information is retrieved and  
25 stored overnight and the user can look at it in the morning when he gets up.

If a remote interface device is provided in a telephone exchange, it is possible to share the connection between the interface device at the  
30 telephone exchange and the service server between several subscribers, for example identified by a subscriber code.

The invention also relates to a system used to access at least one voice server through a computer communication network, particularly an Internet type network, this system being characterised in that each user is provided with:

5       - either a telephone connected to an interface device located in a remote telephone exchange managed by a telecommunications operator with which the user has taken out a subscription, through a local loop in the switched telephone network,

10       - or a local interface device associated with a telephone handset,

          and in that the system comprises:

15       - a link between the interface device and the said multimedia voice server(s) concerned, through a service server in the computer communication network,

          such that data issued by the multimedia voice servers representing the sounds and/or images pass through the Internet network and are received by the interface device and transmitted to the user,

20       - means to activate the interface device in order to set up the link between the interface device and the service server; these activation means comprise:

25       • either a control device associated with a local interface device, particularly a key on a keypad of this interface device,

          • or a control device associated with the telephone connected to the remote interface device, and particularly a key on a telephone keypad,

30       this control device being actuated by the user,

          - means of distributing a menu through the link thus formed between the service server and the

interface device and/or the telephone, offering related multimedia voice server options to the user,

such that the user may for example receive the following messages:

- 5       "Welcome to the service server, through which you can access:
- the multimedia voice server for new disks:  
press 1,
  - the multimedia voice server for today's news:  
10 press 2,
  - the multimedia voice server for the weather:  
press 3,
  - etc.",
  - means of selecting the options chosen among the  
15 options in the distributed menu, by using the control device,
  - switching means to set up links with the voice server(s) thus selected, and
  - reception means, particularly a loudspeaker  
20 and/or a screen, to receive information from the selected voice server,

such that, for example, the user can press key 3 on the keypad of his telephone or the keypad of his interface device, to set up a link with the weather  
25 server and receive the corresponding information.

In one embodiment, the local interface device or the telephone receiver also comprises a screen to display image data from multimedia voice servers.

Furthermore, it is advantageous if this system  
30 comprises personalisation means, and particularly a configuration server to personalize structures in the service server menu, in other words to preselect voice

servers for each user or user group, and possibly the order in which these servers are presented.

Thus, the user can choose a structure like the following:

- 5        "1 - Weather",
- "2 - Horoscope",
- "3 - French news",
- "4 - Madonna's new disks".

10        In one embodiment, the system comprises means of programming the interface device so that it will connect automatically at a given time, for example according to a predetermined structure, to the preselected multimedia voice servers through the service server. It is then advantageous to plan to  
15        store data received in the multimedia voice server, in a memory area in the interface device.

Thus, for example, the user can access information that has been retrieved and stored overnight, when he gets up in the morning.

20        If the interface device is remote, in other words is installed in a telephone exchange, it is preferable to share this interface device between several subscribers, for example identified by a subscriber code.

25        The invention also relates to an interface device that can be used to access at least one multimedia voice server through a computer communication network, particularly an Internet type network, characterised in that the communications link is made through a service  
30        server, and this interface device comprises:

- means to activate this interface device in order to set up a link between this interface device and the service server; the activation means comprising a



control device, particularly a key on a keypad of the said interface device that can be actuated by the user, either locally or remotely, using a telephone connected to the interface device, and

- 5       - means to receive a menu distributed by the service server, this menu offering options for related multimedia voice servers to the user.

Thus, for example, the user receives the following messages:

- 10       "Welcome to the service server, through which you can access:

      - the multimedia voice server for new disks:  
type 1,

      - the multimedia voice server for today's news:

- 15   press 2,

      - the multimedia voice server for the weather:  
press 3,  
      etc."

- 20       For example, the interface device may include a display screen to display image data from the multimedia voice servers.

It may also comprise personalisation means, particularly a configuration server control device to personalize structures in the service server menu.

- 25       Thus, the user can choose a structure like the following:

      "1 - Weather",

      "2 - Horoscope",

      "3 - French news",

- 30       "4 - Madonna's new disks".

In one embodiment, the interface device comprises programming means such that the device automatically connects itself at a given moment, and preferably

according to a predetermined structure, through the service server to the multimedia voice servers concerned, and means for storing the data received from the multimedia voice servers in memory, particularly a  
5 memory area.

Thus, for example, the user can access information that was retrieved and stored during the night when he gets up in the morning.

In one embodiment, means of reception of the  
10 interface device can be used for reception of compressed data and therefore comprise digital compression means, and obviously a digital/analogue converter such that the user can hear and/or see the data sent from the server.

15 Other characteristics and advantages of the invention will become clear after reading the description of some of its embodiments, with reference to the attached drawings in which:

FIGURE 1 is a diagram of a system according to the  
20 invention, and

FIGURE 2 is a diagram similar to the diagram in FIGURE 1 for an alternative.

The system 10 shown in FIGURE 1 corresponds to the case in which the interface device is located in a  
25 telephone exchange and not on the subscriber's premises.

Thus, the system 10 shown in FIGURE 1 comprises firstly a telephone network 12 such as a switched telephone network, and secondly a computer network 14,  
30 for example an Internet type network.

The telephone network 10 conventionally comprises a set of nodes or local loops 16<sub>1</sub>, 16<sub>2</sub>, 16<sub>n</sub>, forming subscriber access nodes to this network 10.

Each loop 16<sub>i</sub> comprises a telephone exchange 18<sub>i</sub> used to direct telephone communications either to a subscriber in the same local loop, or to a subscriber in another local loop. Furthermore, a switching (or interface) device 20<sub>i</sub> is associated with each telephone exchange 18<sub>i</sub>, that can be used to connect the loop to the Internet network 14. For example, this connection is made through access suppliers 22<sub>i</sub>.

In this embodiment, the switching device 20<sub>i</sub> is permanently connected to the network 14.

Each of these devices 20<sub>i</sub> comprises an IP address such that the corresponding telephone exchange (and therefore the local loop) can easily be connected to the other interface (or switching) devices with the same network nature.

This IP address of each interface device may be transmitted directly through the telephone network 10 to the switching devices in other telephone exchanges.

As an alternative, the connection between the switching devices is made through a specific server 24 in the network 14 containing all IP addresses of telephone exchange switching devices. In other words, the server 24 can be used to set up communications between telephone exchanges through the network 14.

Thus, in each loop 16<sub>i</sub>, the switching device 20<sub>i</sub> can be used to transfer communications set up through the telephone network 10, to the Internet network 14.

A telephone communication to the Internet network 14 is switched at the caller's end by means of a control signal originating from the telephone 26<sub>i</sub> used by this calling subscriber. The subscriber's telephone is provided with a special key (not shown) for this

purpose. As an alternative, the switching control signal may be sent by pressing a key combination.

At the called party's end, the switching device in the corresponding telephone exchange is switched to the  
5 network 14 under the control of a specific signal received through the Internet network 14. As an alternative, this switching is done by pressing a key, or several keys, on the called party's telephone handset 26<sub>i</sub>.

10 In the above, it is assumed that each switching device 20<sub>i</sub> is associated with all subscribers in the corresponding local loop 16<sub>i</sub>. As an alternative, the loop 16<sub>i</sub> comprises several switching devices, with a limited number of users being assigned to each of these  
15 devices.

In one embodiment, the possibility of making telephone communications through the Internet network 14 is a non-compulsory option. In this case, the corresponding switching device 20<sub>i</sub> can only be actuated  
20 if the user has taken out a subscription. In this example, the switching device recognizes that the user has taken out the appropriate subscription, either due to the fact that it contains authorized subscriber numbers in memory or because the control signal sent by  
25 the handset 26<sub>i</sub> contains a specific authorization code for access to the Internet type network 14.

According to one important provision of the invention, the network 14 also comprises a server 27 called a "service server" to which the multimedia voice  
30 servers V<sub>1</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>4</sub> are connected.

Each voice server supplies information of a specific nature such as weather information, horoscope, literary or musical information, or show programs, etc.

This information is sent in voice form and in graphic or image form.

The server 26 distributes a menu proposing options on related multimedia voice servers V<sub>1</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>4</sub>, to  
5 the user.

Operation is as follows:

When a subscriber to the telephone network 10 who has taken out a subscription to communications through the Internet network 14, would like to call a voice  
10 server, he presses on a specific key on his telephone 26<sub>i</sub> in order to set up a link with a service server 27. Under these conditions, the server 27 returns a menu in voice form indicating the multimedia voice servers V<sub>1</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>4</sub> to which it is connected. For example, this  
15 menu message may be as follows:

"To access to disk news: press 1;

To access to the news: press 2,

To access to weather information: press 3;

etc."

20 This voice information is preferably transmitted in the form of compressed digital packets. In this case, the interface device 20<sub>i</sub> located in the local loop 16<sub>i</sub> includes digital/analogue decompression and conversion means.

25 When the user presses on the number indicated to him, the signal is transmitted through the Internet network 14 to the server 27 that puts the user into communication with the selected multimedia voice server.

30 In the embodiment of the invention shown in FIGURE 2, the interface device 30<sub>i</sub> is located at the subscriber. It is of the type described in international application WO98/13986. This device is

associated with the telephone handset 26<sub>1</sub>. It is connected to a display device 32<sub>1</sub>. This device may also be integrated in the interface 30<sub>1</sub>.

This device 30<sub>1</sub> can be used to set up telephone or videophone communications through the Internet network 14. According to the invention, it also provides access to multimedia voice servers V<sub>1</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>4</sub> through a service server 27 as described above in relation to FIGURE 1.

As an alternative, the interface device 30<sub>1</sub> is a specialised device for access to voice servers.

Regardless of the embodiment, the address of the server 27 is input using the keypad on the interface device 30<sub>1</sub> to connect this device to the Internet network and to access the server 27. This address can also be sent automatically, being initially located in the memory of the interface device 30<sub>1</sub>. In the latter case, all that is necessary is to press once on a key or simply to switch device 30<sub>1</sub> on.

Once the connection has been set up, operation is the same as in the case described above with relation to FIGURE 1. However, if the servers V<sub>1</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>4</sub> send displayable data such as text, graphics and images, these data can be received and displayed on the screen of the device 32<sub>1</sub>. Note also that in this case, the menu can be displayed on the screen of the device 32<sub>1</sub> instead of or in addition to the voice menu.

The choices made after receiving the menu can be selected using keys on the keypad of the telephone handset 26<sub>1</sub> or of the device 30<sub>1</sub>.

Considering that the voice information and/or image information is usually transmitted by servers V<sub>1</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>4</sub> in the form of compressed digital packets,

decompression means and a digital/analogue converter are provided in the device 30<sub>i</sub>.

Obviously, data transmitted using the keys on the telephone handset 26<sub>i</sub> or the device 30<sub>i</sub> are formatted  
5 so that they can be transmitted through the network 14 and can be interpreted by the server 27.

In one embodiment that is equally applicable to the example in FIGURE 1 and in FIGURE 2, a menu personalisation feature is provided. This  
10 personalisation consists of preselecting servers for each subscriber and/or an individual presentation of the menu that can be listened to and/or displayed.

For example, this personalisation may be done using a configuration means associated with the server  
15 27 that makes the personalized preselection and presentation when it receives a connection request with identification data of the subscriber who asked for this personalisation.

The configuration may be made in various ways. It  
20 may be requested using a written form and/or a form sent on the Internet network, or by telephone call. It is also possible to ask that this configuration should be made automatically through the Internet network, using commands entered using the keypad on the device  
25 30<sub>i</sub> or the telephone handset 26<sub>i</sub>.

According to another provision of the invention, the device 30<sub>i</sub> comprises timing means (not shown), preferably programmable, that enable this device to automatically start itself so that it can automatically  
30 connect itself to one or several preselected server(s) and to save data provided by these servers in a memory (not shown).

In this case, the configuration means located in server 27 or associated with server 27 are used for connection to the selected server(s). Obviously, in this case there is no need for the server 27 to  
5 distribute the menu.

After receiving information supplied by the server, the device 30<sub>1</sub> disconnects itself.

The user can view the data stored in memory at any time without needing to connect himself.



CLAIMS

1. Process that enables at least one user to access at least one multimedia voice server through a computer communication network (14), particularly an Internet type network;

5 each user being provided with:

- either a telephone connected through a local loop in the switched telephone network to an interface device (20<sub>1</sub>) located in a remote telephone exchange (16<sub>1</sub>) managed by a telecommunications operator with  
10 which the user has taken out a subscription;

- or a local interface device (30<sub>1</sub>) associated with a telephone handset,

the said process comprising the following steps:

- a connection is set up between the said  
15 interface device (20<sub>1</sub>, 30<sub>1</sub>) and the multimedia voice server(s) concerned (V<sub>1</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>4</sub>), through a service server (27) in the computer communication network,

such that data sent by multimedia voice servers representing sounds and/or images pass through the  
20 Internet network, and are received by the interface device and transmitted to the user,

- the interface device is activated in order to set up the said link between this device and the service server, by using:

5       \* either a control device associated with the said local interface device, particularly a key on a keypad of the said interface device,

      \* or a control device associated with the telephone connected to the said remote interface device, for example being a key on the said telephone keypad,

10       - a menu is transmitted through the link thus set up between the service server and the said interface device and/or the telephone, presenting options for the related multimedia voice servers to the user,

15       such that the user may receive messages such as the following, for example:

      "Welcome to the service server, through which you can access:

20       - the multimedia voice server for new disks:  
      press 1,

      - the multimedia voice server for today's news:  
      press 2,

      - the multimedia voice server for the weather:  
      press 3,

25       etc.",

      - options in the distributed menu are selected using the said control device, and

      - links are set up with the selected multimedia voice server(s),

30       such that, for example, the user can press key 3 on the keypad of his telephone or his interface device, to receive information about the weather.

2. Process according to claim 1, such that it also comprises a step to:

- display image data from multimedia voice servers using a display screen (32<sub>i</sub>) on the local interface device (30<sub>i</sub>).

3. Process according to either of claims 1 or 2, such that it also comprises a step to:

- personalise structures in the service server menu, particularly using a configuration server, such that for example the user can choose a structure like the following:

"1 - Weather",

"2 - Horoscope",

"3 - French news",

"4 - Madonna's new disks".

4. Process according to any one of claims 1 to 3, such that it also comprises steps to:

- program the interface device such that it automatically connects itself to the multimedia voice servers concerned at a given time depending on a pre-determined structure, through the service server, and
- store data received from the multimedia voice servers in the memory area of the interface device, such that, for example, the user can access information that was retrieved and stored during the night, when he gets up in the morning.

5. Process according to claim 1, such that it also comprises a step to:

- share the said link between the interface device in the telephone exchange and the service server, between several subscribers identified by a subscriber code,

6. System by which at least one user can access at least one multimedia voice server ( $V_1$ ,  $V_2$ ,  $V_3$ ,  $V_4$ ) through a computer communication network (14) and particularly an Internet type network;

5       the said system being such that the user is provided with:

        - either a telephone ( $26_i$ ) connected through a local loop in the switched telephone network to an interface device ( $20_i$ ) located in a remote telephone  
10       exchange ( $16_i$ ) managed by a telecommunications operator with which the user has taken out a subscription;

        - or a local interface device ( $30_i$ ) associated with a telephone handset,

        the said system comprising:

15       - a link between the said interface device and the said multimedia voice server(s) concerned, through a service server (27) on the said computer communication network, particularly an Internet type network,

        such that the data transmitted by the multimedia  
20       voice servers representing sounds and/or images transit through the Internet network, are received by the interface device and transmitted to the user,

        - means for activating the said interface device in order to set up the said link between the said  
25       interface device and the service server; the said activation means comprising:

        \* either a control device associated with the said local interface device, particularly a key on a keypad of the said interface device,

30       \* or a control device associated with the telephone connected to the said remote interface device, for example being a key on the said telephone keypad,

the said control device being actuated by the user:

- means of transmitting a menu through the link thus set up between the service server and the said interface device and/or the telephone, presenting  
5 options for the related multimedia voice servers to the user,

such that the user may receive messages such as the following, for example:

10 "Welcome to the service server, through which you can access:

- the multimedia voice server for new disks:  
press 1,

- the multimedia voice server for today's news:  
15 press 2,

- the multimedia voice server for the weather:  
press 3,  
etc.",

- selection means to select options in the  
20 distributed menu, using the said control device,

- switching means to set up connections with the multimedia voice server(s) thus selected, and

- reception means, particularly a loudspeaker, to receive information from the selected multimedia voice  
25 server,

such that, for example, the user can press key 3 on his telephone keypad or the keypad of his interface device to set up the link with the weather server and receive the corresponding information.

30 7. System according to claim 6 such that the local interface device also comprises:

- a display screen (30<sub>1</sub>) to display image data from multimedia voice servers.

8. System according to either of claims 6 or 7, such that it also comprises:

- personalisation means, particularly a configuration server, to personalize structures in the service server menu,

such that for example the user can choose a structure like the following:

"1 - Weather",

"2 - Horoscope",

"3 - French news",

"4 - Madonna's new disks".

9. System according to any one of claims 6 to 8, such that it also comprises:

- means of programming the interface device such that it automatically connects itself to the multimedia voice servers concerned at a given time depending on a pre-determined structure, through the service server, and

- storage means to store data received from the multimedia voice servers in a memory area of the interface device,

such that, for example, the user can access information that was retrieved and stored during the night, when he gets up in the morning.

10. System according to claim 6, such that it also comprises:

- addressing means to share the said link between the interface device in the telephone exchange and the service server, between several subscribers identified by a subscriber code,

11. Interface device (20<sub>i</sub>, 30<sub>i</sub>) that at least one user can use to access at least one multimedia voice server (V<sub>1</sub>, V<sub>2</sub>, V<sub>3</sub>, V<sub>4</sub>) through a service server (27) on

a computer communication network (14), particularly an Internet type network;

the said interface device comprises:

- means to activate this interface device in order  
5 to set up the said link between the said interface device and the said service server; the said activation means comprising a control device, particularly a key on a keypad of the said interface device; the said control device being actuated by the  
10 user, either locally or remotely, using a telephone connected to the interface device, and

- means to receive a menu distributed by the service server; the said menu offering options for related multimedia voice servers to the user.

15 such that, for example, the user receives the following messages:

"Welcome to the service server, through which you can access:

- the multimedia voice server for new disks:  
20 type 1,  
- the multimedia voice server for today's news:  
press 2,  
- the multimedia voice server for the weather:  
press 3,  
25 etc.",

12. Interface device according to claim 11, such that it also comprises:

- a display screen (30<sub>i</sub>) to display image data from the multimedia voice servers.

30 13. Interface device according to either claim 11 or 12, such that it also comprises:

- personalisation means, particularly a configuration server control device to personalize structures in the service server menu.

such that the user can choose a structure like the  
5 following:

- "1 - Weather",
- "2 - Horoscope",
- "3 - French news",
- "4 - Madonna's new disks".

10 14. Device according to either claim 11 or 13, such that it also comprises:

- programming means such that the interface device automatically connects itself at a given moment, according to a predetermined structure, through the  
15 service server to the multimedia voice servers concerned,

- means for storing the data received from the multimedia voice servers in a memory area,

for example, such that the user can access  
20 information that was retrieved and stored during the night when he gets up in the morning.

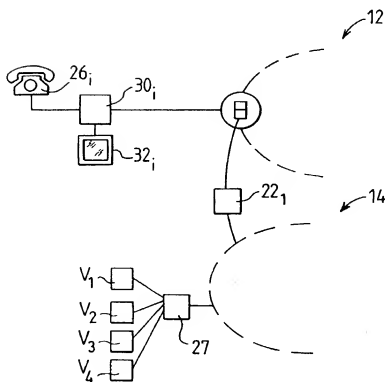
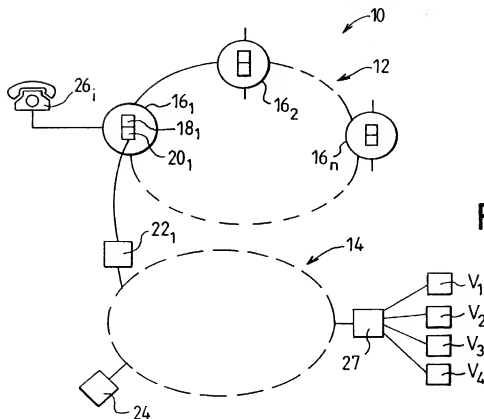
15. Device according to any one of claims 11 to 14, such that the means of reception comprise digital/analogue compression and conversion means,

25 such that the compressed digital information from the server is transformed into a signal that the user can hear.



**Abstract**

The invention concerns a method enabling at least one user to access, via a computerised communication network (14), in particular of the Internet-type, at least a multimedia voice server, each user being provided, for example, with a local interface device (30i). It consists in setting up a link between the interface device and the related multimedia voice servers (V1, V2, V3, V4), via an operating Internet server (27); activating the interface device so as to connect the interface (30i) to the operating server (27); broadcasting, via the established link, a menu proposing to the user the options of affiliated multimedia voice servers; and setting up a link with the selected voice servers.



29 Aug 02 20:20

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Docket No. 214274US67PCT

## Declaration and Power of Attorney for Patent Application

### Déclaration et Pouvoirs pour Demande de Brevet

#### French Language Declaration

En tant l'inventeur nommé ci-après, je déclare par le présent acte que:

Mon domicile, mon adresse postale et ma nationalité sont ceux figurant ci-dessous à côté de mon nom.

Je crois être le premier inventeur original et unique (si un seul nom est mentionné ci-dessous), ou l'un des premiers co-inventeurs originaux (si plusieurs noms sont mentionnés ci-dessous) de l'objet revendiqué, pour lequel une demande de brevet a été déposée concernant l'invention intitulée

As a below named inventor, I hereby declare that:

My residence, mailing address and citizenship are as stated next to my name.

I believe I am the original, first and sole inventor (if only one name is listed below) or an original, first and joint inventor (if plural names are listed below) of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled.

METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR ACCESSING, VIA A  
COMPUTERISED COMMUNICATION NETWORK SUCH  
AS INTERNET, A MULTIMEDIA VOICE SERVER

et dont la description est fournie ci-joint à moins

☐ ci-joint

☐ a été déposée le \_\_\_\_\_

sous le numéro de demande des Etats-Unis ou le  
numéro de demande international PCT

\_\_\_\_\_ et modifiée le

\_\_\_\_\_ (le cas échéant).

Je déclare par le présent acte avoir passé en revue et compris le contenu de la description ci-dessus, revendications comprises, telles que modifiées par toute modification dont il aura été fait référence ci-dessus.

Je reconnais devoir divulguer toute information pertinente à la brevetabilité, comme défini dans le Titre 37, § 1.56 du Code fédéral des réglementations.

the specification of which

☐ is attached hereto.

☒ was filed on June 7, 2000

as United States Application Number or PCT  
International Application Number

PCT/FR00/01553 and was amended on

\_\_\_\_\_ (if applicable)

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56.

29 Aug 02 20:21

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## French Language Declaration

Je revendique par le présent acte avoir la priorité étrangère, en vertu du Titre 35, § 119(a)-(d) ou § 365(b) du Code des Etats-Unis, sur toute demande étrangère de brevet ou certificat d'inventeur ou, en vertu du Titre 35, § 365(a) du même Code, sur toute demande internationale PCT désignant au moins un pays autre que les Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous et, en cochant la case, j'ai aussi indiqué ci-dessous toute demande étrangère de brevet, tout certificat d'inventeur ou toute demande internationale PCT ayant une date de dépôt précédant celle de la demande à propos de laquelle une priorité est revendiquée.

### Prior Foreign Application(s)

Demande(s) de brevet antérieure(s) dans un autre pays.

9907187

(Number)  
(Numéro)

France

(Country)  
(Pays)

Je revendique par le présent acte tout bénéfice, en vertu du Titre 35, § 119(e) du Code des Etats-Unis, de toute demande de brevet provisoire effectuée aux Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous.

(Application No.)  
(N° de demande)(Filing Date)  
(Date de dépôt)

J'ai revendiqué par le présent acte tout bénéfice, en vertu du Titre 35, § 120 du Code des Etats-Unis, de toute demande de brevet effectuée aux Etats-Unis, ou en vertu du Titre 35, § 365(c) du même Code, de toute demande internationale PCT désignant les Etats-Unis et figurant ci-dessous et, dans la mesure où l'objet de chacune des revendications de cette demande de brevet n'est pas divulgué dans la demande antérieure américaine ou internationale PCT, en vertu des dispositions du premier paragraphe du Titre 35, § 112 du Code des Etats-Unis, je reconnais devoir divulguer toute information pertinente à la brevetabilité, comme défini dans le Titre 37, § 1.56 du Code fédéral des réglementations, dont j'ai pu disposer entre la date de dépôt de la demande antérieure et la date de dépôt de la demande nationale ou internationale PCT de la présente demande:

PCT/FR00/01553

(Application No.)  
(N° de demande)

June 7, 2000

(Filing Date)  
(Date de dépôt)(Application No.)  
(N° de demande)(Filing Date)  
(Date de dépôt)

Je déclare par le présent acte que toute déclaration ci-incluse est, à ma connaissance, véridique et que toute déclaration formulée à partir de renseignements ou de suppositions est tenue pour véridique; et de plus, que toutes ces déclarations ont été formulées en sachant que toute fausse déclaration volontaire ou son équivalent est passible d'une amende ou d'une incarcération, ou des deux, en vertu de la § 1001 du Titre 18 du Code des Etats-Unis, et que de telles déclarations volontairement fausses risquent de compromettre la validité de la demande de brevet ou du brevet délivré à partir de celle-ci.

I hereby claim foreign priority under Title 35, United States Code, § 119 (a)-(d) or 365(b) of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate, or § 365(a) of any PCT international application which designated at least one country other than the United States, listed below and have also identified below, by checking the box, any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate, or PCT international application having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed.

Priority Claimed  
Droit de priorité  
Revendiqué

8 June 1999

(Day/Month/Year Filed)  
(Jour/Mois/Année de dépôt)

☒ ☐  
Yes No  
Oui Non

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below.

(Application No.)  
(N° de demande)(Filing Date)  
(Date de dépôt)

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, § 120 of any United States application(s), or § 365(c) of any PCT international application designating the United States, listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States or PCT international application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, § 112, I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to patentability as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, § 1.56 which became available between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application.

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)  
(Statut : breveté, en cours d'examen, abandonné)

(Status: Patented, Pending, Abandoned)  
(Statut : breveté, en cours d'examen, abandonné)

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

29 Aug 02 20:21

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### French Language Declaration

**POUVOIRS:** En tant que l'inventeur cité, je désigne par la présente l'(les) avocat(e) suivant(s) pour qu'ils poursuive(nt) la procédure de cette demande de brevet et traite(nt) toute affaire s'y rapportant avec l'Office des brevets et des marques: (mentionner le nom et le numéro d'enregistrement).

**POWER OF ATTORNEY:** As a named inventor, I hereby appoint the following attorney(s) and/or agent(s) to prosecute this application and transact all business in the Patent and Trademark Office connected therewith: (list name and registration number)

**022850**

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Send Correspondence to:

**022850**

Addresser tout appel téléphonique à:  
(nom et numéro de téléphone)

Direct Telephone calls to: (name and telephone number)

**(703) 413-3000**

Nom complet de l'unique ou premier inventeur <b>Henri Tebeka</b>		Full name of sole or first inventor <b>Henry Tebeka</b>	
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Nationalité		Citizenship <b>FRANCE</b>	
Adresse Postale		Mailing Address <b>same as above</b>	